

NSC BRIEFING

5 January 1961

CUBA

I. Castro regime reacting defiantly to US break in relations.

A. Castro calls US move "another step in aggressive preparations" which are bringing world to brink of war.

1. Cuban press unanimously echoing Castro, reaching new heights of invective.

B. Bloc comment charges break is proof of US aggressive intent, continues to warn that Cuba has powerful friends which "will not abandon her", but no specific threats made.

1. On eve of break in relations, at Cuban embassy reception in Moscow, Khrushchev said "US is pursuing an extremely dangerous policy by trying to suppress Cuban revolution", but continued vague in pledging Soviet support, saying only "Cuban people can always rely on aid of Soviet people."

C. News of US break treated as flash item by Latin American media, but comment took no predominant line and officials generally reluctant make statements.

1. In Peru, which broke relations 30 December, one paper headlined: "Number one power in world follows Peru's example." Prime Minister Beltran's paper also strongly endorsed US action.
2. Chilean foreign minister told press that he saw no reason for Chile to break with Castro under present circumstances.

NSA review completed

State Department review completed

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3. Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Honduras, which had been considering breaking with Castro, may hesitate to follow US action closely for fear of being labeled US lackey by opposition.

4. Leading Brazilian newspaper called US rupture with Cuba worst crisis in Pan American history; urged other Latin American nations to seek solution and not merely follow US example, since they would then be "acting as a satellite."

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6. Mexican foreign minister told US Embassy 4 January that he agreed US could not continue in Cuba with only 11-man embassy. He added it now most difficult to influence Cubans back into American family; said Cubans will need "a little bit of outside help" to solve their problem.

D. Latin American Communists and front groups urging increased popular support for Castro.

1. Uruguayan Communist party on 3 January issued "ardent appeal" urging Uruguayan people to "rise up in defense of Cuban people."
2. Argentine University students publicly warned 3 January that "a second front will open up in the streets" if aggression is perpetrated against Cuba, according to Cuban press service.

E. Canadian government sources reported by press saying Canada's relations with Cuba will continue uninterrupted.

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II. Within Cuba itself, break in relations reported to have dampeden spirit of opposition groups.

- Intend to lie low next few days and see how Castro goes about carrying out his threat of extreme repression.
- See need henceforth much greater security and careful planning.

III. No evidence of imminent Cuban move against Guantanamo base but...

- Cuban ambassador in Mexico said 3 January that Cuba will present "petition" to UN "to have the base eliminated."

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IV.

- Four bloc embassies already in Havana--Soviet, Chinese Communist, Czech, and Polish--have, with associated trade missions, more than 100 people there.
 - This in addition to over 200 economic and military technicians.
 - Embassies of five more bloc countries recently recognized by Cuba--Hungary, Rumania, Albania, North Vietnam, and Mongolia--may be set up shortly. East Germany is only bloc nation still not formally recognized.

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3. Soviet bloc military equipment still arriving in Cuba,
with four shipments in last days of December and more
probably en route.

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ETHIOPIA

- I. Unsettled conditions in Addis Ababa giving rise spate of rumors and causing considerable concern to US personnel there.
 - A. One rumor indicates army may soon demonstrate, even riot if pay raise which they feel promised them during coup not forthcoming.
 - B. Emperor said to have agreed to small bonus but refused raise in pay.
 - C. [REDACTED] Emperor has decided to reconstitute the favored bodyguard, a move which would also add to army grievances.
- II. Considerable sympathy for the coup effort remains latent in the country.

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FRANCE-ALGERIA

I. This weekend's referendum on Algerian self-determination may touch off serious disorders in Algeria.

A. Both Moslems and Europeans in Oran are planning a general strike today, [redacted] 25X1

B. French minister for Algeria has predicted major uprising just before or during 6-8 January referendum.

1. Curfew has been imposed in Algiers, beginning today. 25X1

II. [redacted]

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[redacted] lowered army morale due to:

A. Government decision to hold referendum.

B. Pro-rebel Moslem demonstrations last month.

III. If De Gaulle's over-all majority is slim, widespread French military disapproval of his policy will pose threat to any future initiative of his.

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DOCUMENT NUMBER

DATE

TYPE

CLASSIFICATION

DATE

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/01/15 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001300040001-8

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